

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Monday, October 7, 1991

Same sex benefits announced

by Robin LeBaron

McGill has officially announced it will provide benefits to same-sex spouses.

"The policy is very important," said Trevor Garland, president of the McGill non-academic staff association. "Benefits shouldn't distinguish on the basis of sexual orientation."

McGill reworked its definition of "spouse" to include same-sex as well as opposite-sex partners in a policy-change announced last week. People who have lived with McGill employees of the same sex for three years or more are now entitled to the same benefits McGill grants common-law spouses.

These benefits include group life insurance, and health and dental care services. Same-sex spouses will also be eligible for employee scholarships and tuition waivers.

"It's taken longer than hoped for, but welcome to see," said professor Sam Noumoff, who brought

the issue to McGill's Senate last winter. "This demonstrates that expressions of concern from members of the university community can prove to be productive."

"It should be recognized that the university responded positively," added Noumoff.

McGill's lesbian and gay employees association (LAGEM) has lobbied the university for same-sex spouse benefits since January 1990. The McGill staff benefits committee began discussing the policy last spring. The lobbying efforts of LAGEM and Noumoff were primarily responsible for the issue being raised, according to committee member Trevor Garland.

LAGEM president Robert Head said that same-sex staff spouses need these benefits, but he challenged the university's motives in creating the policy.

"It's a sick joke on the part of University administrators to claim to be 'pleased' to make such an announcement. They steadfastly refused to discuss same-sex spouse

benefits with LAGEM," Head said.

"They only proceeded towards the adoption of this change in policy following Concordia's doing so in 1990."

Garland said the committee spent a long time developing the policy because there weren't many examples at other universities. "It's a new idea all across Canada. It hadn't ever really come up before,"

he said.

McGill is one of the first universities to implement a policy of this type, according to Garland. Dalhousie, Concordia, Arcadia and Toronto already have similar benefits policies.

Head said that now that the benefits policy has been adopted, it is important for the university improve its policy in other ways. For example, the university has yet to adopt an AIDS policy, or address homophobia and discrimination within the workplace.

The benefits office could not be reached for formal comment.



PHOTO CREDIT: NADINE LEE

Sam Noumoff championed same sex spouse benefits.

El Salvador promises land reform

by Lisa Kowalchuk

Eleven years of civil war in El Salvador may be at an end. The two sides signed an accord in New York City two weeks ago.

The accord includes a promising agreement on land reform, the central issue of the war between the U.S.-backed Salvadorean government and the rebel FMLN.

"The right of the peasant to have land is being recognized after 500 years," said Rolando Gutierrez, an FMLN representative in Canada.

A provision in the new constitution will guarantee that no Salvadorean may own over 245 hectares of land. If successful, the reform means the breakup of the country's massive plantations.

The government decreed a 245-hectare maximum in 1983, as part of a package of agrarian reforms. The government refused to enforce the reforms, and many peasants and organizers were murdered trying to claim their rights.

Gutierrez said the accord marks

a political turning point in El Salvador.

"We are changing the constitution without being part of the government. Although it's just on paper now, it means the beginning of the end of the situation the military has imposed for 60 years on civilian society," he said.

"Civilians are going to participate more actively in national political decisions, something the FMLN has been demanding since talks began. Our objective is to bring the civilian organizations like the trade unions to pay an even bigger role."

Gutierrez noted that the high profile of the talks also implied the FMLN's recognition by the Salvadorean government and the world.

The accord allows the FMLN to retain military control over some rural areas. Under the accord, the FMLN will be incorporated into a new national civilian police force, independent of the army. The accord also states that peasants' organizations and cooperatives in these zones will be free of harassment by the army, Gutierrez said.

But despite the accord, Gutierrez predicted there will be future hardships for the FMLN and other popular organizations.

"There's going to be a fierce struggle with the ultra right," he said.

"Already, Vice-President Francisco Merino has publicly stated that the agreements are unaccept-

able. It's important to recognize that these are only agreements. It depends on our weapons, the civilian population, and the international organizations to make them a reality."

Until the two sides reach a ceasefire, the accord will be enacted by a national committee of government, FMLN, political, religious and international observers. The committee will have precedence over the military in advising the president.

A commission to investigate human rights violations since 1979 was established in an earlier round of talks.

"This means an end to the impunity of the armed forces," Gutierrez said.

The agreements reached in the accord are scheduled to be written into the constitution after debate in El Salvador's National Assembly.

The New York round of talks, where the accord was finally signed, was the third set of negotiations. The first two rounds, in Caracas and Mexico City, ended in deadlock.

"The talks were at an impasse," Gutierrez said.

The issues which stalled the talks involved the future of El Salvador's notoriously brutal armed forces.

The FMLN had proposed the total demilitarization of Salvadorean society. Intervention by the United Nations in the talks breathed new life into the negotiations, Gutierrez said.

Student fed'n says:

Fee hikes acceptable

by Dave Ley

The government can raise tuition fees by as much as six per cent, says a provincial student federation's draft report on tuition fees.

In a preliminary report entitled "Tuition Fees — after the Hikes", the Québec Student Federation (FEUQ) advocates indexing tuition fee hikes at a rate no greater than the consumer price index.

The report's recommendations encourage Education Minister Lucienne Robilliard to negotiate tuition fee increases with FEUQ representatives.

"The government could act unilaterally and not consult with FEUQ, as it did with tuition fee hikes two years ago. But this would be followed by the same response from students: marches and strikes," says the report.

The report said any tuition fee increase should be accompanied by an identical increase in funding to universities.

Other Québec student organizations have condemned the FEUQ proposal.

"FEUQ is selling students down the river," said James Brown, of Concordia Undergraduate Students' Association (CUSA).

"A student association promoting tuition hikes has no legitimacy. Fee increases will always present a

barrier to those students who haven't the money. Economic discrimination should never be tolerated," said Brown.

Although FEUQ representatives would not comment until the final report's release, Students' Society VP External Karla Macdonald said she supported the proposal.

"Students can contribute to part of their education," she said. "We are consumers of a product, and we have an obligation to pay for our education. Nonetheless, any tuition increases must come in concert with a restructuring of the contributions of business and government."

Official Students' Society policy does not oppose tuition fee increases and claims tuition does not necessarily reduce accessibility. However, MacDonald said the 1988 policy is under review.

"Our policy regarding tuition fees will be re-evaluated. But we do not support the principle of free tuition," said MacDonald.

Since tuitions were frozen at \$540 in 1968, every student federation in Québec has opposed increases in tuition. When the provincial government announced in 1989 that it would raise tuitions by 145 per cent, student associations including those belonging to FEUQ, rallied together against the increases.

The FEUQ proposal recommending an increase of tuition fees by the consumer price index (5.8 per cent this year) would increase fees \$81 for a full time student.

The final FEUQ report on tuition fee increases will be released this week.

Inside

Woes in the
Economics
department

see
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Mr. Littman is the author of WAR CRIMINAL ON TRIAL: THE HELMUT RAUCA CASE and is at the forefront the struggle to prosecute Nazi War Criminals living in Canada. Admission is free.

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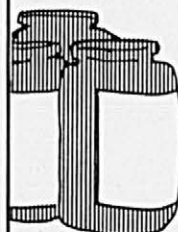
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SHOOTERS 2 FOR 1 ALL TIMES

Economics department in turmoil

by Alex Roslin

Tensions are high in Economics, and many members say the department is in serious decline.

Economics professors and students who challenged the department's policies last spring say the problems have gotten worse.

They charge that courses are becoming increasingly irrelevant, the department is abandoning undergraduate teaching, and even the graduate program is suffering.

"Our criticisms were totally ignored," said Economics professor Robin Rowley.

"I'm not even sure it was worthwhile making them."

Rowley co-authored a highly critical study of the economics department with economics professor Allen Fenichel last spring. The study was submitted to a university committee undertaking a regular review of Economics.

Rowley and Fenichel said professors in the department spend too much time pursuing research contracts and publishing academic tracts, and not enough time teaching undergraduate students.

"The department has basically given up on running a decent undergraduate program," Fenichel said.

Rarely are there more than three or four students in PhD-level classes in the department, Rowley said. Meanwhile, some undergraduate classes have over 400 students.

"It's normal for some PhD classes to be so small. But if all of them are, something's definitely wrong," he said.

The number of graduate classes in the department has actually increased since the criticisms of the problem last spring, Rowley said.

The university committee will issue its final report on the Economics department by early November, according to committee chair Mike Smith, a Sociology professor. The report won't be made public.

But Rowley worried that the committee's report may whitewash the problems in Economics.

"During the hearings last spring, the committee seemed to tolerate many of the problems we complained about."

But Economics chair John McCallum said the department has put a lot of effort into improving undergraduate teaching.

"We devoted most of last spring to reforming the undergraduate curriculum," he said.

Shortly after the criticisms were made public last spring, McCallum was appointed the next dean of Arts. McCallum replaces the current dean, Michael Maxwell, next June.

Said Rowley, "I thought we had pointed out a host of problems in the department. I'm surprised that the man largely responsible for the problems has been rewarded with a promotion."

Lance Eckel, a Masters student last year in the department, expressed alarm that McCallum will be the next Arts dean.

"There is a serious lack of leadership in Economics."

Teaching is obsolete

The irony is that despite the heavy emphasis on graduate studies and research, the department's research record and graduate program are hardly spectacular, critics say.

For one thing, they note, the department manages to graduate only a handful of PhDs a year.

In the first five years of the 1980s, 27 PhDs and 53 MAs graduated from Economics. From 1986 to last year, only 17 PhDs graduated, slightly more than three a year. Thirty-nine MAs graduated at the same time.

"What's the point of emphasizing graduate work and research if there are only a handful of grads in the department," Rowley asked.

Another problem is the quality of published articles.

Economics professors are judged almost exclusively by a merit system which emphasizes quantity of research over quality, Fenichel said. Promotions in the department are based mainly on how many articles the professor writes, and on the prestige of the journals they appear in, he said.

Many students say professors in the department practice an obsolete version of economics, which has limited usefulness outside the university.

Rafy Kourouian, a third-year student, said the department suffers from a "narrow ideological framework," dominated by a "strong neoclassical and neoconservative" bias.

"A university is supposed to be a battleground of ideas. But there are only three or four professors in the whole department with an up-to-date critical approach to economics," he said.

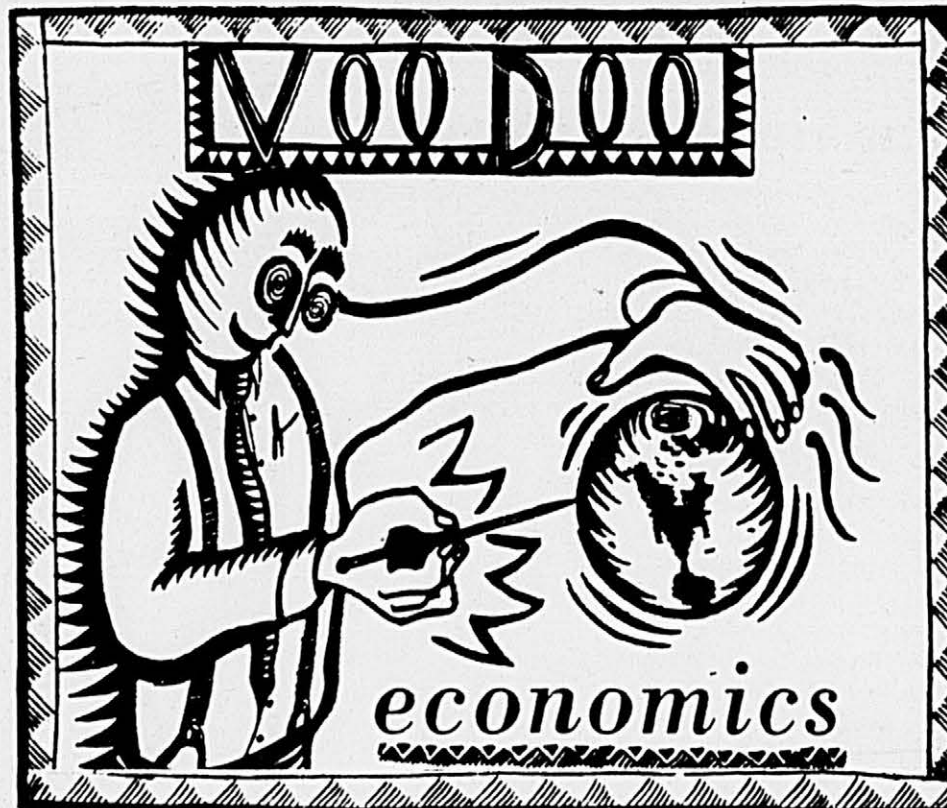
Another third-year economics student, who wished to remain unnamed, said most professors teach "a kind of techno-bureaucratic economics," which overemphasizes math.

On the other hand, he said, the department doesn't require undergraduate students to take any courses in economic history.

"Surely a historical perspective is more important than differential equations," he said.

The student said many

continued on page 6 ...Turmoil



Are students a nuisance?

by Alex Roslin

Morale among Economics students has taken another tumble.

Students in the Economics department are shocked by a professor's remarks during the last departmental meeting.

Professor John Galbraith denounced student representation on an academic committee, comparing students to members of the I.R.A.

Another professor had just said, "if we don't allow student involvement they may rebel like in the 1960s."

Allowing student involvement would be like allowing a terrorist group onto the committee, Galbraith said.

The remarks are the latest in a rash of incidents in which professors show contempt for their students, members of the department say.

Professors at the meeting eventually voted against student representation on an influential advisory committee for a new chair for Economics.

The current chair, John McCallum, will become Dean of Arts next June. McCallum has publicly said he wants Galbraith to take over the Economics chair.

"Galbraith's remark is just unbelievable," said one fourth-year economics student, after hearing of the comment.

"Incidents like this one just keep happening over and over. Students are getting tired of the contemptuous attitude toward them, and not having any say in the department," he said.

"It's like a war zone in economics," said a third-year student in the department, who also wished to go unnamed.

"The conflicts exist not only between professors and students, but also among professors themselves. The professors don't really seem to care for each other. They

don't value each other's work."

She said several recent disputes between professors and students in the department have led to a "morale crisis" among students.

On at least three separate occasions since last spring, conflicts between professors and students have required intervention from a Dean.

One of the more serious disputes involved a Masters student who was taking a 700-level reading course in the Economics department.

Minor disagreements between the student and her course advisor started last winter. At one point the professor called the student "weak-willed" and lazy about her work.

But when the student tried to change advisers, the professor refused to allow the change, saying another adviser may be too soft on her. The student then asked chair McCallum to intervene. But he waffled, telling her that he was "scared" of the professor in question.

"It's completely normal for students to change advisers," the student told the *Daily*.

The conflict finally drew outside attention when the professor drew up a contract for the student to sign, spelling out several unusual and strict demands for completing the course.

The student "will submit weekly essay drafts to" her adviser, the contract reads. "If in any week, she does not submit a draft, or a full written report explaining difficulties with her academic progress, she will be deemed to have failed (the course)," the contract says.

The professor also demanded that the student write an exam to complete the course. Graduate courses almost never have exams.

The student eventually asked Mario Onyszchuk, the associate dean of the faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, to intervene in the dispute.

"There was a complete lack of respect," she said.

"Obviously, if you enter gradu-

ate school you're willing to work hard. I couldn't believe a professor would start questioning my character simply because I wanted to change advisers."

The incident shows an "inexcusable disrespect for students," said Economics professor Allen Fenichel.

"The handling of the affair was inept, foolish and arrogant."

The blooper prize

Both students and professors say both incidents are just symptoms of a larger problem in the department.

The department emphasizes research and publishing academic tracts, to the detriment of undergraduate education, said Economics professor Robin Rowley.

"Students are a nuisance as far as the department is concerned. Most of the professors care more about how many papers they publish than teaching."

Rowley referred to the "blooper prize" scandal last spring as another example of widespread disrespect for students. The scandal again led members of the department to ask for intervention from a dean, after chair McCallum refused to do anything.

Three Economics professors distributed a memo throughout the department just before exams, proposing a prize for the professor who could come up with the stupidest exam error by a student.

"The spring grading season is once again upon us," the memo said. "To lighten your task we propose a competition for the best examination blooper."

The prize "will consist of a drink of one's choice at the Faculty Club," the memo said.

Students and professors were enraged by the proposal.

"It's not good practice to engage in the ritual humiliation of the students whom it is the faculty's

continued on page 6 ...Blooper



THE MCGILL DAILY

Your right in the pie

Don't adjust your sets folks, it's time for the return of the constitutional debate. Yet again, Canadians will be subjected to hours of debate about distinct societies, "triple-E" senates, Supreme Court judges, and whatever else those geniuses in Ottawa think up.

You can even call a toll-free number, to find out just how *you too* can be involved in the process. What a country.

But one little-noticed bonus in the Tories' constitutional package is a clause giving all us lucky citizens the right to own property. Yup, that's the way the Tories would have it — all citizens having sovereign rights over the stuff they own, be it a book, a house, or (what the hell!) controlling interest in a multinational megacorporation.

Of course we all know that it's great to have rights. Rights are good. Rights are what living in a democracy is all about. If we didn't have rights, then we would be living in an evil, totalitarian state. So the more rights the better — right?

What darkens the picture somewhat is that sometimes, some people's rights interfere with other people's rights. For example, which has priority, the right of landowners to take advantage of their property, or tenants' rights not to have their rents raised sky-high?

When a couple gets divorced, whose rights count? The husband's property rights, or the wife's rights to be protected from poverty? And does the right to property include the ownership of guns? How about slaves?

Whose rights are more important — the property rights of factory owners who don't want their workers to have a union, or the right of the workers to collective bargaining? Do restaurant owners have the right to refuse to serve African-Canadians in their restaurants? It's their property, after all.

If the property rights clause goes through, Canada's Supreme Court would be buried in challenges to just about every form of progressive legislation.

The fate of First Nations' and tenants' rights, environmental protection, and a spouse's right to a share of the family's assets after divorce may lie with an elite bunch of fossilized government appointees.

The public would have no say in it. Sound like democracy to you?

The effect of a property rights clause would be to protect the interests of the propertied minority from the property-less majority. It would be anti-democratic because the rights of the rich would supercede the rights of the poor. More property, more rights.

But then, what else could we expect from the likes of Brian Mulroney and his pals? To act in the interests of the majority of Canadians, instead of the Princes of Profit?

After all, Tories will be Tories.

Fiona McCaw
Alex Roslin

Peter Clibbon
Robin LeBaron



LETTERS

Odin and kiosk

To the Daily:

My eyes well up with tears as I stroll around the bonified campus of this great "financial" institution. I sob gloriously. I dare anyone to look away from the ethereal kiosk in the Union building. Worshipp this huge place mired in 76 million dollars... of debt. Bow to the skyscraper that McGill French has taken over.

And yet there is talk of expiring McGill Dentistry? Well, so be it. In its place we can have an Engineering themepark! Or how about a helicopter to take U1 students from Douglas Hall to classes. Or we could dig a moat to keep out non-club members. If our fees

keep getting raised, we can build a McGill Zoo, with otters as the main attraction. OH, YES!

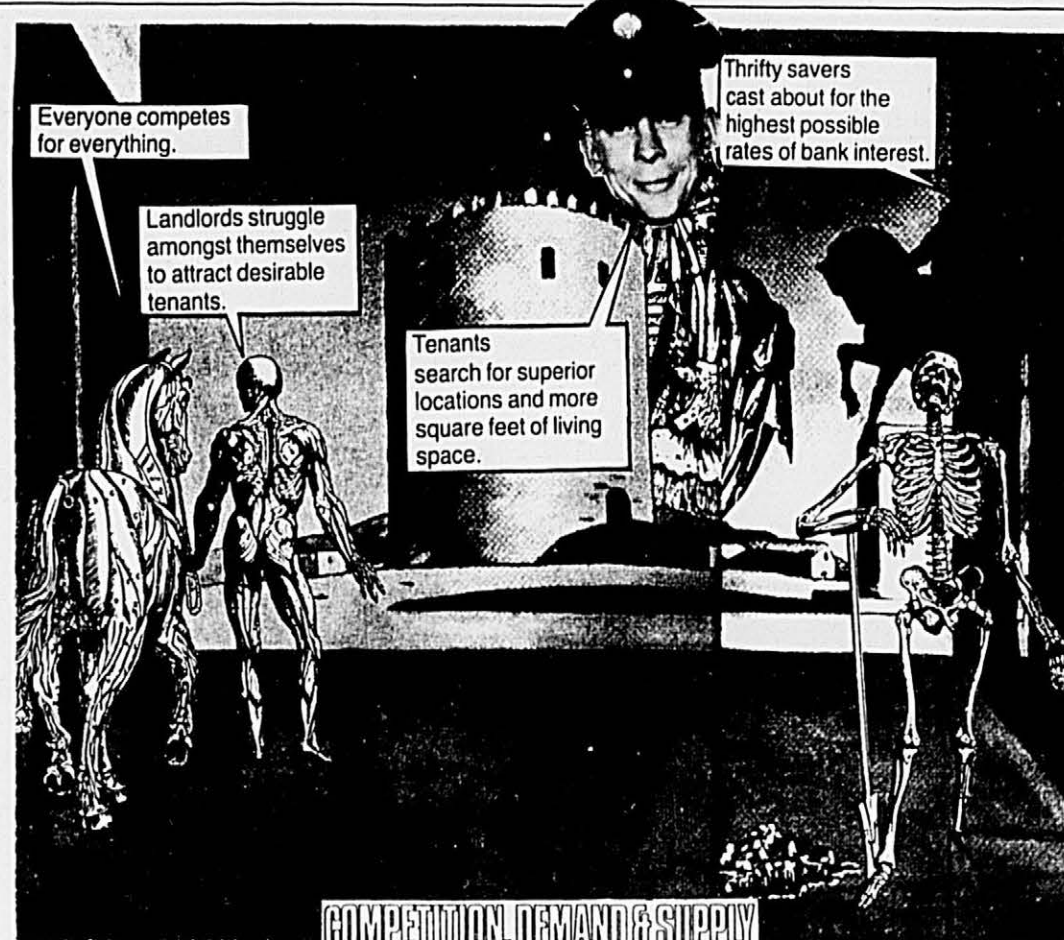
Long live the McGill city-state, and may the great God Odin cancel our debt!

Scott "Charon" Laraway
U3 Arts
Keeper of the River Styx

McGill abusive

To the Daily:

On Monday September 30th, I presented myself at McGill Health Services for a pre-scheduled appointment. As I am an Ontario resident, I was asked for both my OHIP and McGill identification. I apologetically explained that I had forgotten my OHIP card and agreed



to leave my student card as collateral. I would return, after I had seen the physician with my Health Care card. I was rudely refused and spoken to in a punitive and infantilizing tone. Feeling unwell and mistreated, I returned home to get my OHIP card.

This marks my third unpleasant experience with McGill Health Services. The message is clear. You're a student, you are undeserving of respect. This is a dangerous message as we know, abuse (verbal and/or physical) begets more abuse.

I expect a standard of respect from McGill employees as they serve as role models to the student population. I truly hope that I never model the inflexibility, lack of respect and verbal abuse that I have experienced at McGill Health Services.

Isn't it ironic that at a school that prides itself in liberalism and egalitarianism that I should learn intolerance and abusive behaviour?

Marianne Bennet
Social Work U3

Get out, Israel

To the Daily:

I would like to respond to Emmanuel Chomski's letters about the human rights records of Israel and the Arab states in the Middle East. I agree that the human rights records of these countries is not perfect. However, the Israeli atrocities in the occupied territories have occurred and continue to occur on land that much of the world community does not recognize as Israeli land. This will forever be the case until Israel ends its cruel occupation.

While discussing the subject, I would like to bring attention to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon as well. They have been aggressively pursuing a number of new construction projects with the belief that they may continue to occupy this land. I can

accept the right of an Israeli state to exist, but it's time Israeli expansionism is stopped. Get out of the Gaza Strip, get out of the West Bank, get out of the Golan Heights, and get out of southern Lebanon.

Steven Barnett
PhD3 Chemistry

I laugh

To the Daily:

A man said to the Universe, "Sir I exist!" and the universe replied "That does not fill me with a sense of responsibility."

Who said that? I can't remember, someone famous.

To Pierre LaRocque I have never met the pope but I believe he exists. I am just a face among the crowd.

What do I want? Well Mr LaRocque I want the same thing as you. To live in harmony with my fellow creatures and make a fast buck. I laugh and cry just like you. What is a man really? He is what people perceive him to be. If you got to know me maybe you would like me.

I wish to remain yours truly,
Pierre J. Rouge
U4 Drama

Ed. note: We said we're sorry.

Apparently liberal

To the Daily:

In response to Chris Barrigar's letter of September 23, 'SSMU too PC?', I should like to express serious concern. Particularly after the recent row over the Concordia Student Handbook's treatment of gay and lesbian issues, Mr. Barrigar's reservations over the amount of space devoted to GALOM and same-sex love in the McGill Handbook seem somewhat inappropriate.

What chiefly bothers me about Mr. Barrigar's letter, however, is the use of apparently liberal terminology in a way

that could reinforce homophobic attitudes. This comes across in an appeal to the pluralistic nature of student groups on campus—what does 'pluralism' mean in this context?—and in the by now rather tiresome scepticism directed against political correctness. By what privilege do those outside oppressed and marginalized groups judge their political stances and actions? If Mr. Barrigar is gay, he ought to say so openly. If he is not, he should have the humility to recognize that his remarks can be taken as extremely offensive by lesbian and gay people.

Indeed, the kind of attitude evinced by Mr. Barrigar's letter serves to promote the lack of acceptance of lesbian and gay people through the long and dismal history of bigotry in the Western religious traditions. Where the only appropriate attitude would be one of repentance leading to change, instead the vast majority of religious institutions attempt to minimize or defend their prejudiced positions on lesbians and gays. Appeals to the sensibilities of the 'weaker brethren' and citation of Paul's statement, "All things are lawful...but all things are not expedient" (1 Cor. 6:12, 10:23)—which has been used to rationalize every form of intolerance from the subjugation of women to apartheid—simply do not hold up in the face of the real injustice and suffering that oppressed peoples, among whom are not least lesbians and gay people, have been made to undergo. It seems to me that those religious people who are looking for 'balance' would do well to engage in an extended meditation on chapter 23 of the Gospel according to Matthew in relation to chapter 25, verses 31-46.

Richard Cooper
Ph. D.

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Eric Block and Sarah Shaw smiling.

Students to get free ride

by Shannon Aldinger

Students are trying to improve campus safety by offering to drive others home.

McGill students Sarah Shaw and Eric Block are developing a campus shuttle service to drive students home from the university after dark.

Shaw and Block envision "Drive Safe" to be an evening van service which would pick up students, free of charge, at designated areas around campus.

They think the service is essential due to the persistence of danger on and around campus.

"Women especially cannot engage in all the activities and services the university offers because of the threat of aggression," Block said.

The service is a logical extension of Walk Safe, an organisation which accompagnies students home by foot late at night, said Shaw. But unlike Walk Safe, Drive Safe would increase the number of pick-up locations. Libraries, night school classes, athletic facilities and the Union building are suggested pick-up areas.

"Walk Safe does a great job fulfilling its mandate but it's limited in what it can do. It only walks students home from one library, McLennan, at one time each night. Both the nursing and social work libraries close earlier and are frequented predominantly by women," Shaw said.

"Drive Safe is a service McGill should provide. If not, it's really restricting the services women especially can enjoy. So far, [the university] provides equality in theory but not in practice."

Shaw and Block are currently assessing the cost of the proposed service and soliciting support from the university. They have sent letters describing the service to both Principal Johnston and Dean of Students Irwin Gopnick. They have not yet received a response.

Shaw estimated the service's set-up costs to be "astronomical",

though she was unable to provide a figure.

Part of the cost will depend on whether a van is bought or donated. Block hopes to solicit a corporate donation. Other costs will include insurance, gas and drivers' salaries. Block estimated insurance costs alone to total over \$100 000 per year.

They hope students-at-large will finance the project and plan to bring the proposal to a campus-wide referendum next month.

"With something like this, how can anyone be against it? How can anyone be against the principle of getting people home safely and of guaranteeing rights and privileges all students supposedly enjoy," Block said.

Students at the University of Western Ontario have operated a similar drive-home service since 1981. But the service is limited to locations on campus.

According to Joan Irvine, administrative assistant of Students' Services at Western, the service only costs students \$13 000 per year. The student-run organisation hires university police to drive a van, rented from the university, around the campus.

Irvine said the service is useful but often abused by students.

"A lot of people use the van for convenience. Different groups get on together and get off together. There's no risk to their security. You also notice more people on nights when the weather is bad," Irvine said.

She also said many of the benefits derived from the drive-home service could be accomplished through Western's equivalent to Walk Safe. Over five hundred students regularly volunteer for the walking service, she said.

Students' Society VP Internal Alex Johnston supports the proposal in theory but echoes Irvine's concerns.

"There is a danger of it becoming a taxi service, that's why it's

important to check how other universities run it," Johnston said.

"Although I'd like to see Walk Safe expand, I think Drive Safe would complement it well. I don't think you can get around the need for Drive Safe," Johnston added.

Front against poverty

by Mark Antaki

Community groups in Montréal's west end are coordinating their efforts and reorganizing to help people in poverty better.

Resources Populaires is a recently-founded umbrella organization of community groups in Notre-Dame de Grace.

Its first move was to find an affordable space for member groups.

"Several community groups are now paying expensive commercial rents on their short-term leases," said McGill professor David Woodsworth, chair of Resources Populaires.

By sharing space in the same building, the groups will be able to share physical resources, and save money. The duplication and scattering of resources will also be reduced.

Fraser said that in the long-term, it would be extremely beneficial if N.D.G. had one center where all people could go.

The mandate of Resources Populaires is to facilitate the functioning of community organizations. It has no authority over them and provides no direct services to the community.

Richard Fraser, of the N.D.G. Anti-Poverty Group described Resources Populaires as "a focus for community needs." He said that presenting a "common front" to both the community and the government will help community

Affirmative action supported

The graduate students' society has amended its constitution to include an affirmative action clause.

At their last general meeting, the graduate society council voted unanimously in favour of a constitutional amendment which read: "Nothing in this constitution shall preclude any programme, activity, or policy of the Society that has as its object the improvement of conditions of a group disadvantaged because of race, colour, national origin, religion, social status, class language, sex, sexual orientation, or handicap..."

PGSS President Michael Temelini commented "I'm happy with the level of awareness among grad students."

"It's often hard to get women to participate because they feel it's a hostile environment," reflected Eugenio Bolongaro (VP external).

"We are grateful that there is an almost equal representation on the executive. We are not complacent. But in practise, people have been considering these issues for a long time already. This confirms that we have played an important role in sensitizing grad students."

Carellan Brooks of the McGill Women's Union applauded the amendment. "I think this will go a long way towards encouraging affirmative action."

Students' Society passed a similar amendment to its constitution last spring.

— by Clare Sims

Dentistry gets shot in arm

An association of elected student leaders voted Thursday to "strongly denounce" methods used to consider closure of the Dentistry faculty.

The McGill Presidents' Council agreed that administrators had committed seven procedural violations of due process.

"The committee is violating important democratic and ethical principles," said Tom Rougas, dentistry students' association president.

The violations include the Principal's explicit endorsement of the proposal; the proposal's rush-job through administrative procedures; and the fact that the committee judging the proposal lacks the necessary expertise.

Another violation cited by the

council was the presence of Vice Principal François Tavenas as chair of the committee judging the proposal. Tavenas was on the work group which had originally proposed closing the faculty.

Rougas said that while the administration made its case in favour of closure, Tavenas periodically nodded his head in approval.

But Tavenas publicly said to a joint Senate-Board of Governors meeting on September 30 that he was capable of making an impartial decision.

Presidents' Council is made up of presidents from all faculty student associations, with Students' Society, Grad Society, and several other group presidents.

A student demonstration in support of dentistry will take place tomorrow at 13h45 outside the Strathcona Dentistry building. The Dentistry Students' Association invites all students to participate.

— Robin LeBaron

Sexual assaults at Pine and Parc; women beware

Three women were assaulted at the des Pins/Parc intersection during the last two weeks.

At least two of the attacks took place in broad daylight. One of the assailants was described as "an East-Indian male approximately five foot eight, medium weight, with dark short hair."

"If you can't even walk there during the day, there's a serious problem," said Melissa Freedman of the McGill Walk Safe Network.

Walk Safe member Kelly Gallagher-MacKay said the area is particularly dangerous because it has no public telephones, and is poorly lit during the night. Walk Safe volunteers have been posting along well-frequented routes to alert students and residents of the danger.

"We want to alert both students and the neighborhood, not so that people will be scared but so that they will be conscious and aware of the danger," Gallagher-MacKay said.

Anyone with information is invited to contact the Walk Safe Network at 398-8251 or leave a message at the SSMU desk. Walk Safe members leave from McLennan library every night 15 minutes before closing. Cookies will be served.

— by Monica Brennan

organizations to finance and provide community services.

Resources Populaires "is already showing signs of filling a need in the community," said Woodsworth. He explained that the umbrella group is one step towards bringing the different grass-roots community organizations together.

At present, community groups do collaborate, said Woodsworth. But by actually pooling their resources, community groups will be able to devote greater effort to the fight against poverty.

Poverty is a big problem in N.D.G. In August of 1991, 25% of women and 20 per cent of men in

N.D.G. In August of 1991, 25% of women and 20 per cent of men in N.D.G. were under the poverty line.

Resources Populaires' interim financing has been provided by grants from the provincial government, obtained with the help of Equality Party M.N.A. Gordon Atkinson's office. The official funding campaign has yet to be launched.

Member organizations of Resources Populaires include: the Multi-Ethnic Center, the Black Community Council, the Anti-Poverty Group, Head and Hands, the Senior's Council, the Y.M.C.A., the Food Depot and the Community Council.

EVENTS

Demonstrate against the closure of dentistry! Pulse news will be there so why don't you join in to combat the evil destruction of this important academic department. Free buttons and t-shirts will be distributed. Dentistry needs your

support! Meet outside Strathcona at 1:45 today and march to the administration building.

All women are welcome to the meeting of the McGill Women's Union on Monday Sept. 30 at 5:30 in Union rm 423.

The Latin Awareness Group is sponsoring a speaker from the

centre for co-operation with El Salvador and will have a meeting to discuss/organize upcoming events. 5:00 p.m., Union 435. New members are welcome.

Fame in 15 minutes at Amateur Night! Come sing, read poetry, do comedy, whatever, but you only have 15 minutes. Every Monday at 9:00 in the Alley. And it's Free.

Learn all about fellowships. Ms. Teresa Brychcy, Director of Scholarships and Fellowships, NSERC will present information and application advice on various NSERC fellowships. Graduate level and U3 students are invited to attend from 2-3 p.m. Prospective postdoctoral applicants and faculty should attend from 3-4 p.m. for info. on regular and international postdoctoral fellowships and women's faculty awards. Refreshments will be served. Leacock Council Room, Rm 232.

Quebec PIRG needs eager volunteers to help with communications. Drop by their office on the 5th floor of the Eaton building or call Fern at 398-7432.

Another Q-PIRG event: on campus waste management meeting, today at 5:00 p.m. in Union 425/26.

Transition from Socialism to Capitalism? a talk by Ian Meldumov from the Institute for Oriental Studies, Soviet Academy of Sciences, Moscow. Sponsored by the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, Concordia University in the Basemount Lounge, 2149, Mackay St, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Turmoil...

continued from page 3

undergrads believe the department's course offerings are increasingly "irrelevant." Many students have left for other departments out of frustration, he said.

A fourth-year student in Political Science, who also wished to go unnamed, said he left economics after taking several courses in the department.

"I found the approach out-dated and irrelevant," he said, noting there is an "obsessive" emphasis on calculus in the department.

Collapse of economics

Tom Naylor, another Economics professor who has been critical of the department's policies, recently submitted his own critical report to the university committee studying the department.

He wrote that the department is giving professors "clear signals that, in the promotion and tenure process, a few articles, however narrow and sterile, matter far more than a commitment to teaching responsibilities."

Naylor warned of a "systematic denigration of the undergraduate population as a whole" in the department. Students "have responded by flight to other disciplines," he said.

The underlying problem is that economics "has collapsed as a critical discipline with any relevance for actually studying the economy," he said.

"Economics has instead become an exercise of pseudo-scientific sleight-of-hand. Trends in the department at McGill simply reflect that larger reality."

Naylor suggested there has been "a fundamental shift" in the priorities of the whole university, reflected in the recent 60-page report of the McGill Task Force on Planning and Priorities.

"The first priority is to have faculty sell themselves to the corporate sector in exchange for research money," Naylor said.

The second is to turn out "a handful of grads whose role is to perpetuate the intellectual status quo," he said.

"The last priority, if it exists at all, is to make a begrudging effort toward educating the broad mass of undergraduate students."



Blooper...

continued from page 3

responsibility to educate," said Economics professor Tom Naylor, who complained about the prize to dean of Students Irwin Gopnick.

Naylor's complaint sparked the intervention of Michael Maxwell, dean of Arts. Maxwell wrote a terse letter to McCallum asking him to stop the blooper contest, which he said was "in poor taste."

"I think such prizes are inappropriate, as they are open to being interpreted as a manifestation of contempt for the students."

The memo, though unsigned, suggests that a "blooper committee" would choose a winner for the prize. The committee would consist of professors Mary MacKinnon, Victoria Zinde-Walsh and George Grantham.

Both MacKinnon and Zinde-Walsh said the blooper prize wasn't meant seriously. "There was a memo and that was all," MacKinnon said. "Nothing happened."

Zinde-Walsh said the prize was "just a joke," and that "professors often swap stories about their students."

McCallum said he didn't respond to the objections to the blooper prize because he didn't "think anyone meant it in any serious way."

"I know that the professors concerned would be very upset if the prize led to people thinking they were unconcerned about students."

But Lance Eckel, a former Economics Masters student, disagreed. Eckel also had to appeal to a dean last spring to resolve a dispute. His professor, John Galbraith, would not accept a sick note signed by a doctor, and failed Eckel for missing an exam.

"Such incidents show there are real fractures between students and professors," he said. "Students learn to mistrust professors."



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(To be submitted to Chief Returning Officer at SSMU desk)
Deanna Vanderyagt and William Stee, CRO



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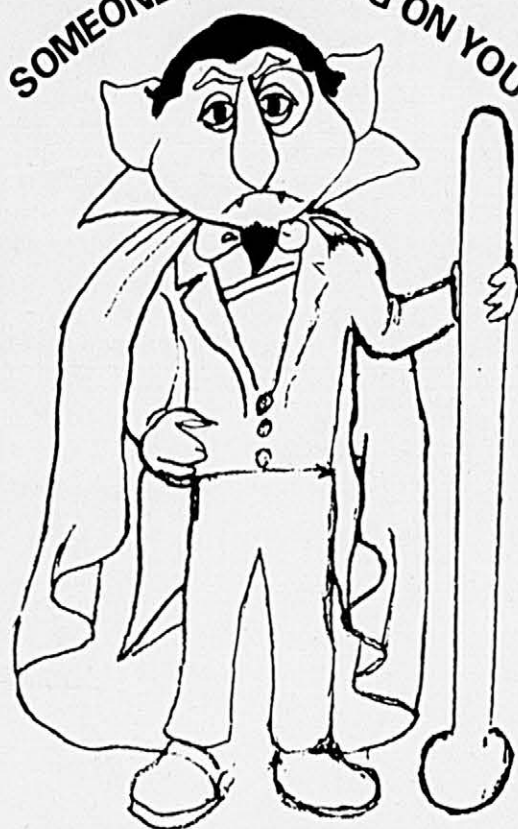
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